

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. *Status of the Claims*

In this Amendment, claims 1 and 4 are amended and claim 7 is added. Claims 1, 4, and 7 are pending and under consideration with entry of this Amendment.

2. *Support for the Amendments*

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification, the drawings, and the claims as originally drafted. Support for the term "Owarihatamochi allele" can be found on, e.g., page 5, lines 18-24 and Figure 2 of the specification. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment.

3. *Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph*

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4 as indefinite because it is allegedly unclear how the G271 marker is detected. As amended, the claims recite that the Owarihatamochi allele of the G271 marker is detected. As demonstrated in the specification (e.g., in Figure 2), the Owarihatamochi allele of G271 is linked to field resistance to rice blast. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

4. *Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)*

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by the Rice Genome Research program website. According to the Examiner, because the website teaches the detection of RFLPs, the website anticipates the claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

To anticipate a claim, a reference must disclose every element of a claim. As amended, the claims are directed to detecting the presence or absence of the Owarihatamochi allele of marker G271 and then determining the presence or absence of field resistance based on the presence or absence of the Owarihatamochi allele of the G271 marker. The cited website only describes identification of RFLPs in the rice genome. The cited website does not teach or

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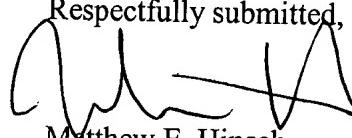
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suggest determining the presence or absence of field resistance to rice blast nor does the website teach or suggest that the Owarihatamochi allele of the G271 marker was associated with field resistance. Accordingly, the cited website cannot anticipate the present claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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